GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:336
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
PROPAGANDA BY FOREIGN CHANNELS IN BORDER AREAS
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to weak signals of Indian Transmission as compared to much better quality of reception of Foreign Transmitters, people living in border areas particularly in sensitive border areas are tempted to watch foreign channels and fall prey to foreign propaganda; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to counter the strong foreign transmitters in Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttaranchal and North-eastern region?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 33 REGARDING PROPAGANDA BY FOREIGN CHANNELS IN BORDER AREAS FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2002.

(a) & (b): Doordarshan has been assigning priority to expansion of TV coverage inborder areas in its expansion plans. At present, there are 1347 TV transmitters functioning in various parts of the country and out of these, 271 transmitters are in border districts. The quality of reception of Doordarshan transmitters in border areas is generally satisfactory. However, TV signals from across the border are receivable in some areas.

For expansion and improvement of Doordarshan services in Jammu &Kashmir, Government had approved a Special Package involving an outlay of Rs. 234.44 Crores for hardware projects of Doordarshan, under which 86 transmitters have already been set up and the remaining 6 transmitters are expected to be set up in J&K by the end of current financial year.

For expansion and improvement of Doordarshan services in NE region,Government has approved, in principle, implementation of a special package. Even though the details of the schemes under this package are yet to be finally approved, as a part of this package, schemes for upgradation of 5 HPTs (1KW to 10KW), setting up ofEarth Stations at Shillong and Aizawal and provision of Satellite video phones at 8 (eight) capital centers of NE Region (2at each centre), besides establishment of 160 Cable Head Ends (20 in each of the 8 NE states including Sikkim) for expanding TV coverage have been sanctioned and are under implementation.

For expansion/improvement of TV coverage in the border areas of thecountry including those in J&K, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttaranchal and North Eastern states, 40 transmitter projects are presently under implementation.